

5 Jul

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## REMARKS:

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5 July 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to ED/I (Planning)

THROUGH: Assistant Director for Research and Reports

SUBJECT: Reporting on Cuba

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1. This memorandum is for your information and discusses various reports on the activities of the Soviet merchant vessel *Baltiysk* as an example of the conflicting reports from Cuba being received by the intelligence community. It is not intended to depreciate the seriousness of the situation in Cuba, the extent of bloc involvement therein, or the probably enlargement of this involvement. It is intended, however, to show that portions of this situation may be distorted by improper submission of reports from the field. Lack of detailed and clear presentation in these reports is confusing the situation unnecessarily.

2. Since the Castro regime came to power in Cuba in January 1959, and especially since Nikoyan's visit to Havana in February 1960, a close check has been made on all bloc shipping to Cuba. Rumors of bloc arms shipments to Cuba have run rampant for more than a year, and recent indications suggest that such a move has been under active consideration.

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[redacted] while any bloc  
military support for Cuba is noteworthy the primary interest  
is focused on Castro's attempts to procure jet aircraft. The  
following summarizes the investigation of some conflicting  
reports [redacted]

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[redacted]

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inbound cargo was arms but there is possibility [redacted]  
[redacted] aircraft. Ship is moored at Regla pier where  
good security may be maintained."

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& NSA  
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[redacted]

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3. Obviously all of these reports are not true and all may be false. A wide variety of non-military machinery and equipment has been ordered from the Soviet bloc

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9. Presumably we shall learn what was involved eventually, but as a result of inaccurate and poorly phrased field reports the situation is greatly complicated.

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This unsatisfactory reporting

is believed to generally pervade much of the current reporting from Cuba and could be extremely dangerous.

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Many of these reports are sent directly to Fort Monroe and Fort Bragg. This routing suggests that these reports may be currently in use by military planners for contingency operations. If the quality of such plans and the success of operations passed thereon depends on the quality of such intelligence reports, a fiasco may be in the making.

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Chief, Current Support Staff

Attachments:

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